

This is a prelude this week to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank conferences next week in Washington. And I think our conversations here will have some influence on the deliberations there. And what better forum than this, under the auspices of the Commonwealth. We are bound together in a great global adventure. There is no historical precedent for the type of association we have -- no constitution, no articles of association, no formalized structure, a voluntary association of free and independent people all of us enjoying equality of status around this table. And yet we link every race, every colour, every creed, every continent. We are not a melting-pot of cultures; we are a cauldron to stir the ideas of six continents.

We in Canada look to the Commonwealth as a vehicle for peace, as an avenue towards world understanding. We consider the Commonwealth to be, next to the United Nations, the most universal and fruitful of our human associations. It has been a grand experiment, it has been a creative model of collective human dignity.

S/C

---